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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/351,420	07/09/1999	BRIAN VON HERZEN PH.D		9695

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KIMNHUNG T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2629

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/351,420	VON HERZEN PH.D ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Kimnhung Nguyen	2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amendment filed on 1/24/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 and 53-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 26-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17, 20, 22-25, 30-38 and 49-51, and 53-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 18-19, 21, 39-48 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This Application has been examined. The claims 1-51, and 53-55 are pending. The examination results are as following.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 5-9, 11, 16, 25, 49, 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barlow (US 4,637,148) in view of Albert et al. (US 6,118,426).

Regarding claim 1, 16, 25, 49, Barlow discloses in figures 1-3, an illuminated wearable article comprising a regular two-dimensional (see case 12, see fig. 1); a graphic controller physically fastened coupled electrically connected to the case (see figs 3-4); a power source (32) physically fastened and electrically coupled to the graphics controller; and an fastener physically fastened (18) coupled to the back side and structure to allow attachment to a human clothing (see col. 6, lines 61-63). However, Barlow does not disclose an array of pixel display element having a front light-emitting side and an opposing back side. Albert et al. discloses in figs. 8A-8D a printed display having matrix array of pixel display element (see col. 16, lines 46-67) and may have a front light-emitting side and an opposing back side. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the using of a printed

Art Unit: 2629

display having matrix array of pixel display element as taught by Albert et al. into the system of Barlow because this would use a matrix of two terminal devices and control the tiles.

Regarding claims 30, 34-35, Barlow discloses in figures 1-3, an illuminated wearable article comprising a regular two-dimensional (see case 12, see fig. 1); a graphic controller physically fastened coupled electrically connected to the case (see figs 3-4); a power source (32) physically fastened and electrically coupled to the graphics controller.

Regarding claim 5, Barlow does not disclose a common substrate to which the elements are mounted. Albert et al. discloses a common substrate to which the elements are mounted as discussed above.

Regarding claim 6, Barlow discloses further the substrate is a printed circuit board (see fig. 1).

Regarding claims 7-9, Barlow discloses further the fastener has two position, open and closed (see on and off of switch 20, see col. 1, lines 61-67), and obvious is a safe pin, and the fasten is configured so that the user cannot remove it from the substrate in either of the two positions (see col. 10, lines 47-49).

Regarding claim 11, Barlow discloses further the graphics controller is control circuit. However, Barlow does not disclose a control circuit configured by a computer program to display a user-selected sequence of patterns on the array. Albert et al. discloses a control circuit configured by a computer program to display a user-selected sequence of patterns on the array (see 6A, see col. 14, lines 28-40).

Regarding claims 16, and 34, Barlow discloses further the substrate is a printed circuit board (22, fig. 1); the graphics controller is a control circuit (fig. 4). Furthermore, Barlow

Art Unit: 2629

discloses the illuminated wearable comprising graphics controller and couplings that conduct current between the power source and any resistor components (see figure 4). However, Barlow does not disclose a common substrate is mounted. Albert et al. discloses a common substrate is mounted (see matrix array as discussed above).

Regarding claim 17, la discloses that the programming connector comprises a light responsive transducer, and the pixel display elements are light-emitting diodes (see col. 16, lines 46-67 and col. 17, lines 1-3).

As to claims 53, Barlow does not disclose wherein the array is composed of emission pixel display elements. Albert et al discloses the matrix array of pixel display element as discussed above.

3. Claims 30 and 34-35 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barlow (US 4,637,148) in view of Hawkins (US 6,143,381).

Regarding claims 30, 34-35, and 55, Barlow discloses in figures 1-3, an illuminated wearable article comprising a regular two-dimensional (see case 12, see fig. 1); a graphic controller physically fastened coupled electrically connected to the case (see figs 3-4); a power source (32) physically fastened and electrically coupled to the graphics controller. However, Barlow does not disclose a fastener physically coupled to the top of the case, whereby the case is suspended from the fastener and the pixel array are structured to permit animated display.

Hawkins discloses in fig. 1-3, a backlight apparatus for a light transmissive ornament having a fastener physically (22) coupled to the top of the case, whereby the case is suspended from the fastener (see col. 5, lines 23-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the a fastener physically (22) coupled to the top of the case, whereby the case is suspended from the fastener as taught by Hawkins to the system having a regular two-dimensional of Barlow because this would provide the construction of equipment with a hanger means to attach the unit to a tree or the object that the user wishes to adorn (see col. 3, lines 23-24) and therefore they are structured to permit animated display.

3. Claims 22, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Janney (US patent 6,201,525).

As to claims 22, 24, Janney et al. discloses an illuminated wearable article (see figure 5, column 2, lines 31-34) comprising a means (display window 30) for displaying a message (see column 2, lines 43-65); means for driving (33, figure 3) the display means to repeatedly scroll (35) the user selected message across the display means (see column 2, lines 57-66); means for power the display means (51), the selection means (buttons 20, 22, 24, 26, 28), and the driving means (33); and means for attaching the display means (10, see figure 5, column 4, lines 40-44), and the driving means (33, figure 3), and the power means (12) as unit to clothing (12) (see figure 5, column 4, lines 39-46); and means (memory 41) for storing for selection an alphanumeric character set (alphabet), means for selecting the message as a sequence of patterns (see column 2, lines 57-66); and members of an alphanumeric character set (alphabet).

4. Claim 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barlow (US 4,637,148) in view of in view of Albert et al. (US 6,118,426) and in view of Janney (US 6,201,525).

Art Unit: 2629

Barlow and Albert et al. do not disclose the graphics controller is structured to allow driving the display elements to scroll a message across the display window.

Janney discloses of pixel display elements to scroll a message across the array (see column 2, lines 57-66).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the display elements to scroll a message across the display as taught by Janney et al. to the system of Barlow and Albert et al. because this would provide the character information to the display unit driver and allow to the user to program many message up to 96 characters long, and scrolling characters at a time across the display (see Janney, see col. 2, lines 57-62).

5. Claims 2-4, 10, 12-15, 23, 31-33, 36-38 and 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barlow (US patent 4,637,148) and Hawkins (US 6,143,381) and in view of Janney (US 6,201,525) and in view of Albert (US 6,118,426) and further in view of Ryan, Jr. et al. (US patent 6,028,597).

Barlow and Alber, Hawkins and Janney disclose an illuminated wearable article comprising a regular two-dimensional array of pixel display elements as discussed above. However, they do not disclose the array has a width between 1 and 5, or 1.1 and 2.0, and approximately 1.5 times the character pitch; and the control circuit is programmed to select members of an alphanumeric character set (alphabet); and the brightness of each pixel is controlled by pulse-width modulation; and the article having a volume of less than 20 mililiters

Art Unit: 2629

and the case is shaped like a rectangular prism, and two buttons supported by the case and electrically coupled to the graphics controller.

Regarding the claims 2-4, 23, 31-33 and 50-51, it would have been obvious to the system of Barlow to have the arrays has a width between 1 and 5, or 1.1 and 2.0, and approximately 1.5 times the character pitch, and the article having a volume of less than 20 milliliters and the case is shaped like a rectangular prism as claimed since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the range or shape of the system. A change in range or shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

See In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1995) and

In re Reven, 156 USPQ 679 (CCPA 1968).

5. Regarding claims 10,12-15 and 36-38, Janney discloses the control circuit is programmed to select of members of an alphanumeric (letters of alphabet) (see column 3, lines 29-32), and an inherent wherein the control circuit has a non-volatile store for the user-selected sequence of the pattern, Janney also discloses in figure 1 the two buttons (20, 22, 24, 26, 28) through the table and electrically coupled to the graphics controller (see column 3, lines 44-50). Ryan discloses a brightness of each pixel display element and pulse width modulated (see abstract), and two buttons supported by the case and electrically coupled to the graphics controller.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Janney and Ryan into the system of Barlow because this would allow the user to scroll backward through the table and enter a chosen character at a



Art Unit: 2629

display portion, and animating an image of the character responsive to the characteristics (see abstract).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 26-29 are allowed.

7. Claims 18-19, 21, 39-48 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The present invention comprises a method of programming a message being scrolled on the display comprising a sequence of pattern or characters into a wearable ornamental comprising a activating by the buttons. The closest prior art, Barlow (US 4,637,148), Albert et al. (US 6,118,426) and Janney (6,201,525) shows a similar system which also disclose a moving alphanumeric messages are programmed by manipulation of five buttons related to the wearable ornamental display. However, they fails to teach the power source is removable and replaceable, and further comprising a programming connector physically coupleable to the array and electrically connectable to the graphics controller only when the power source is remove, whereby the circuit can be programmed without over-driving the power source as claims 18-19 and 21; or the steps of a activating a third button combination comprised of clicking at least one of the buttons, while in the edit mode to toggle from the edit mode to the run mode, thereby causing the replacement of the first character by the first replacement character in the scrolled message being display as claim 26; or further comprising a second regular two-dimensional array

Art Unit: 2629


of pixel display elements supported by the case and having a light-emitting side directed away from the case and in a different direction from the first array as claims 37, 39-48.

### **Correspondence**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimnhung Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7698. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI, FROM 8:30 AM-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Kimnhung Nguyen  
Patent Examiner

March 27, 2006